

TABLE 1. Percentage of females aged 18–24, by selected characteristics, according to age at first sex and age of partner, 2002 National Survey of Family Growth

Characteristic	Sex before age 16			Sex at age 16–17		No sex by age 18
	Partner ≥5 yrs. older	Partner 3–4 yrs. older	Partner <3 yrs. older	Partner ≥3 yrs. older	Partner <3 yrs. older	
Unweighted N	110	173	273	155	402	725
Weighted N (in 000s)	747	1,224	1,778	950	3,225	5,927
All	5.4	8.8	12.8	6.9	23.3	42.8
FAMILY						
Maternal education*,†						
<high school	27.0	20.1	23.1	22.0	12.8	17.6
High school	36.8	41.5	31.8	31.3	37.9	22.9
≥some college	36.2	38.4	45.1	46.7	49.3	59.6
Family structure at age 14*,†						
Two biological/ adoptive parents	53.3	50.7	56.6	65.7	66.5	81.1
One biological parent and one adoptive parent/stepparent	15.6	19.3	14.8	13.2	13.9	5.3
Single biological parent	10.2	13.3	14.1	15.5	12.7	8.8
Other	20.9	16.8	14.5	5.6	6.9	4.9
Mother had a teenage birth*,†						
	53.3	44.4	42.1	45.3	33.7	26.2
INDIVIDUAL						
Race/ethnicity***,†						
Hispanic	28.3	18.3	13.1	25.9	10.7	16.5
White	44.1	61.2	61.4	57.8	65.1	65.0
Black	20.9	17.2	19.5	11.9	18.6	10.6
Other	6.7	3.3	6.0	4.4	5.6	7.9
Foreign-born*,†						
	15.8	6.1	5.6	15.3	7.4	17.1
Menarche before age 12***,†						
	40.0	31.4	29.1	25.4	16.8	15.1
Religious attendance at age 14**,†						
Never	18.0	30.6	22.6	15.0	13.2	12.2
Sometimes	35.0	28.5	32.3	25.8	36.2	21.4
Once a week	30.8	27.0	30.2	37.6	37.2	41.0
>once a week	16.2	14.0	14.9	21.6	13.4	25.4
FIRST SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP						
Nonvoluntary**						
	24.6	15.5	10.7	9.6	7.0	na
Wantedness***						
Not wanted	35.7	19.8	16.9	16.1	8.8	na
Mixed feelings	44.2	62.2	53.1	59.9	55.6	na
Wanted	20.0	18.0	30.0	24.0	35.6	na
Relationship type***						
Cohabiting/engaged	5.1	4.0	2.4	13.4	3.9	na
Going steady	49.0	60.9	71.9	66.4	79.9	na
Other	45.9	35.1	25.7	20.2	16.2	na
OUTCOMES						
Contraceptive use at first sex***						
	45.1	72.1	64.8	61.7	73.9	na
Teenage birth***,‡						
	41.0	45.9	32.3	34.2	18.8	na

*Difference is significant among respondents who had had sex before age 18 at p<.05. **Difference is significant among respondents who had had sex before age 18 at p<.01. ***Difference is significant among respondents who had had sex before age 18 at p<.001. †Difference is significant among all respondents at p<.001. ‡Among respondents aged 20–24. Note: na=not applicable.